



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

March 15, 2005

S. 39

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on March 10, 2005*

SUMMARY

S. 39 would direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to establish and coordinate a national program for ocean exploration. The purposes of the program would be to explore the physical, biological, geological, archaeological, and other characteristics of the world's oceans. In carrying out this program, NOAA would be authorized to coordinate scientific voyages with other federal agencies or institutions and to conduct public education and outreach programs. The bill also would direct NOAA to convene, with other federal agencies such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Office of Naval Research, a task force to provide the new program with available exploration technology, communications infrastructure, and data management systems. For those activities, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$45 million annually for fiscal years 2006 through 2011 and \$55 million annually for fiscal years 2012 through 2017.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 39 would cost about \$15 million in fiscal year 2006 and \$180 million over the 2006-2010 period. We estimate that \$420 million would be spent after 2010, including \$375 million authorized to be appropriated between 2011 and 2017. Enacting S. 39 would have no impact on revenues or direct spending.

S. 39 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 39 is shown in the following table. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the entire amounts authorized by the bill will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Outlays have been estimated on the basis of historical patterns for other NOAA programs. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

| | By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars | | | | |
|--|--|------|------|------|------|
| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION ^a | | | | | |
| Authorization Level | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 |
| Estimated Outlays | 15 | 30 | 45 | 45 | 45 |

- a. NOAA's National Oceans Office received appropriations of nearly \$830 million for oceanic research and science activities in 2005, including some activities that are similar to the exploration program and ocean research efforts that would be authorized by this bill.
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INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 39 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. State and local governments, including academic institutions, that participate in research, development, and education activities created by the bill would incur costs voluntarily.

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